

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 011499

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011499

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,AFIN, PFOR, OTRA, VS, ID

SUBJECT: ICCS: AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S VISIT; ICCS FINANCES

SAIGON FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN, JAKARTA FOR AMBASSADOR NEWSOM,
FROM HABIB

REF: A. JAKARTA 611; B. SAIGON 106 (NOTAL)

1. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE HOPE YOUR CONVERSATIONS IN JAKARTA,
ADDED TO AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S, WILL PERSUADE THE INDONESIANS
TO MAINTAIN THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION IN ICCS. WE CONTINUE
TO BELIEVE THAT THE ICCS SHOULD REMAIN IN BEING AND THAT
AN INDONESIAN PULLOUT DURING THE NEXT CRITICAL FEW
MONTHS -- FROM WHATEVER CAUSES -- WOULD HAVE A MOST UN-
FORTUNATE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT IN VIET-NAM AND ELSEWHERE.
IT COULD ALSO LEAD EFFECTIVELY TO THE DEMISE OF THE ICCS,
WHICH WOULD REPRESENT A MOST UNFORTUNATE SETBACK FOR THE
PARIS AGREEMENT AND FOR U. S. POLICY. I AM CERTAIN THAT
YOUR TALKING WITH MALIK, PANGGABEAN AND HOPEFULLY SUHARTO
CAN DO MUCH TO PREVENT THIS "CHAIN REACTION" OF EVENTS.

2. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS YOU MAY
WANT TO MAKE IN LIGHT OF YOUR APPRAISAL OF INDONESIAN AT-
TITUDES. (FYI. ONE UNDESIRABLE POSSIBILITY THAT MIGHT HAVE

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TO BE CONSIDERED, FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE INDONESIANS PERSIST,

IS, THAT IN RESPONSE TO INDONESIAN CONCERNS OVER SECURITY (AND FINANCES), WE CONCUR IN AN ICCS DECISION TO REDUCE EXPOSURE OF ICCS PERSONNEL BY LIMITING DEPLOYMENT TO

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND SAIGON. SUCH A LOWERING OF THE ICCS POSTURE WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE IN THE MIDST OF THE CURRENT NVA OFFENSIVE. HOWEVER, SUCH A POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE LOOKED AT IF THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO FORESTALL AN INDONESIAN PULLOUT AND A GENERAL COLLAPSE OF THE COMMIS- SION. END FYI.)

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR OPPOSITION (REF B) TO APPROACHING THE GVN FOR A FURTHER ICCS CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME. OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT THE EARLIEST CONGRESS IS LIKELY TO ACT ON AN ICCS SUPPLEMENTAL IS MARCH -- SUBSTANTIALLY AFTER THE 1 MILLION DOLLARS NOW IN THE TILL IS EXHAUSTED -- AND THAT IS PROBABLY AN OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATE. I DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO SUGGEST THAT WE STRONG-ARM THE GVN. ULTIMATELY IT IS THEIR DECISION. BUT WE SHOULD APPRISE THEM OF OUR LEGISLATIVE SITUATION SO THEY TAKE THEIR DECISIONS KNOW- ING THE LIMITS OF WHAT WE CAN DO AT PRESENT. I RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTY OF RAISING THIS ISSUE WITH THE GVN IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT OF NVA MILITARY ESCALATION IN SVN. BUT I THINK IT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO DO SO.

4. IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HELPFUL IN DISSUADING THE INDONESIANS FROM WITHDRAWING FROM THE ICCS IF YOU COULD TELL THEM THAT YOU HAVE RECENTLY DISCUSSED ICCS FUNDING WITH BAC. THIS WOULD AT LEAST TEND TO DIMINISH ANY IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR ANY PLANNED INDONESIAN WITHDRAWAL.

5. ONE FURTHER POINT BEARS NOTING. THE ICCS AUTHORIZA- TION IN THE FAA IS A SEPARATE LINE ITEM AUTHORIZING AP- PROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IT DOES NOT RPT NOT COME OUT OF IPR FUNDING. AID TO VIET-NAM IS REDUCED ONLY IN THAT THE PAYBACKS FOR FY 74 BORROWINGS DO NOT IN- CREASE FY 75 FUNDS. KISSINGER

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